(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Refresher Courses and Safety Camps for Railway Personnel

260. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Railway personnel deemed as "safety category staff" do not attend the refresher courses and safety camps organised by the Zonel Railways and CAG has also indicated this in its recent report; and

(b) if so, the steps taken towards human resource development and results achieved so far by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) There have been some shortfall in the staff attending refresher courses and safety camps. CAG also in their Report No. 9 of 1999 for the year ended 31.3.98 has drawn attention to this aspect. However, on the Indian Railways a thrust has been given to the training of staff. In this regard an integrated approach to improve training effectiveness has been initiated in 1999 wherein "Manual on Management of Training" has been issued for effective guidance and monitoring of training activities. During 1998-99 about 65,000 staff (including safety categories) have been given refresher training as compared to approx. 49,000 during 1997-98. As regards Safety Camps the same is being organised periodically to update the knowledge of staff involved in train operations and 35,500 safety cateogry staff have been trained in Safety Camps during 1999 as against 29,577 in 1998. Concerted efforts are being made to bridge the gap between the number of staff required to be trained and actual number trained.